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Dispersed Families of North and South Korea Reunited after 40-year Separation

Min Kyong Ok, 74, from Seoul burst into tears when he met his first and second sons, 48 and 40, for the first time in 35 years. (PK Photographer Pak Kil Hun)

A north Korean woman had an emotional reunion in Pyongyang with one of her relatives residing in the south. (PK Photographer Pak Kil Hun)

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By Li Chol Won
PK Staff Reporter

In a dramatic move toward a north-south conciliation, separated families from the two sides were reunited for the first time since the country's partition, and artistes of north and south Korea gave performances in Seoul and Pyongyang for the first time in the history of 40-year division.

In Seoul, 30 members of separated families from Pyongyang realized their dreams when they were reunited with their kith and kin on September 21 and 22, while 35 hometown visitors from Seoul met their relatives in Pyongyang on the same days.

Though 45 other Koreans had no chance to be rejoined because their severed families were not be located or were already dead, the September 21-22 reunions were emotional and historical.

Reuters reported on the historical event, saying, "Although differences in political ideology and religion were sharply underlined during the four-day visits that ended Monday, the similarities between people sharing a common language were obvious."

The question of simultaneous exchange of hometown visitors and artistes on September 20-23 was taken

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Female dancers from Pyongyang performing a folk dance at the National Theatre in Seoul.

Survey: Political Risk Is Rising Sharply in S. Korea

A Hong Kong-based private institution studying country risk problems says in its latest report that "political risk is rising sharply" in south Korea.

"There are those who are drawing a parallel between events of 1979 (economic slowdown, increased labor unrest and confrontation between opposition and government leading to a fatal split in the government party) and the present situation. There are others like Lee Min-woo, leader of the NDP (New Korea Democratic Party), who are comparing the current clamp-down on a wide range of civil liberties as more like May 1980. On either count, political risk is rising and we predict a tough fall semester," says the report.

The Hong Kong-based Risk Consultancy, Ltd., in its "Quarterly Country Risk Survey – the Republic of Korea –", covering the period from July to September, states: "Many seasoned observers are beginning to consider whether there is a smell of 1979 in the air. There will be a severe tussle of conscience over whether to rock the boat during the IMF/World Bank sessions in October, with the obvious political points weigh-

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North, South M.P.s Hold Second Round of Talks

Members of the parliaments of Pyongyang and Seoul September 25 held a second round of talks to make arrangements for a joint conference of legislators from the two sides as a move toward reduction of tensions in Korea and toward eventual reunification of the peninsula.

However, the head of the DPRK delegation, Chon Gum Chol, told reporters after the one-hour-and-50-minute closed session that the south side insisted on "drafting a unified constitution" refusing to put on the agenda of inter-parliamentary talks a joint declaration of non-aggression.

"Our side proposed that the third preliminary contact be held on October 16 in order to conclude the contact as early as possible. But, the south Korean side failed to give an answer to this, and said it would notify our side of it by telephone," Mr. Chon told reporters.

A five-man delegation from each side

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Tearful and Dramatic Reunions in Pyongyang, Seoul

Long-dispersed families and relatives shed tears of joy in Pyongyang and Seoul on Sep. 21 as they met their kith and kin for the first time in 40 years since Korea was divided.

Each group consisting of 151 people made a four-day visit to Pyongyang and Seoul from Sep. 20 to 23.

North and south Koreans eased their pent-up pain of dispersion when they reunited with their own flesh and blood from whom they had heard nothing.

There are 10 million dispersed families in north and south Korea. Among them it was only 65 people who were reunited with their relatives this time. Even if the number was small, the first free travel across the Military Demarcation Line will become an important opportunity to make great strides in promoting Korea's reunification and national rapprochement as a great event in the history of 40-year division.

Meanwhile, the north-south Red Cross art troupes gave performances at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre and at the National Theatre in Seoul respectively.

They returned home after the exchange, crying in tearful voices, "When can we meet again?" and "Please live long, father!"

The following photos show emotional scenes in Seoul and Pyongyang as relatives and family members met for the first time since the division of the country or the 1950-1953 Korean War:

So Hyong Sok from Pyongyang is in deep emotion when she held fast the hands of his 83-year-old mother, Yu Myo Sul, during their first dramatic, tearful meeting at the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel on Sep. 21, since they were separated 40 years ago because of national division.

▲ O Sok Hwan, 60, one of the north Korean home visitors, pours liquor for his father, O Chang Gun, 80, at the Samwon Garden Stake House in southern Seoul on Sep. 21.

▶ Former "home minister" Hong Sung Chol from Seoul consoles his 67-year-old sister sobbing in his arms during a reunion after four decades of separation.

A son from north Korea (54) showing a scar above his left eye to his mother (83) in south Korea. ▼

Pyongyang Arts Troupe in Seoul

Female dancers from Pyongyang going out from the National Theatre.

Pyongyang art troupe members perform at the National Theater in Seoul.

EDITORIAL

Historical Reunion of North-South Koreans

The exchange of north-south Red Cross art troupes and home-visiting groups (each consisting of 151 people) ended successfully, amid the warm attention and expectations of the world's people who have shown a keen interest in a peaceful solution of the Korean question.

The four-day visit to Pyongyang and Seoul from September 20 to 23 was a big national event and an epoch-making one which was realized for the first time in 40 years since Korea was liberated, that is to say, since Korea was divided.

North and south Korean relatives and family members met and were reunited with each other whose fate had been unknown. Moreover, art troupes gave performances on the public stages of Pyongyang and Seoul. What a wonderful event it was! They had been unable to do this even once before though they are homogeneous people and lived on the same peninsula and though they gave performances in foreign countries.

Therefore, the success in the historic exchange of north-south Korean Red Cross art troupes and home-visiting groups will have a favorable effect on the promotion of great national unity and the reunification of their fatherland, as this will surely serve to break down the barrier of national division which has remained closed for a long time and to dispel mutual mistrust, misunderstanding and antagonistic feelings which have accumulated up to the present. Of course, the exchange was extremely limited in scale and schedule. But, anyway, the first mutual free travel in 40 years brought about a victory for Red Cross humanitarianism. It has admirably proved that we can resolve even difficult and complicated problem by ourselves, if we face each other with perseverance and in good faith. This is a precious lesson.

We warmly welcome this brilliant success. At the same time, regarding it as one step forward, we expect that big advances will be achieved at ongoing economic talks, preliminary contacts for interparliamentary talks and scheduled sports meetings between north and south, not to mention the steady development of the north-south Red Cross talks.

In order that this may become a reality, as we have proposed many a time, the danger of war on the Korean Peninsula should be removed and peace and security firmly guaranteed. Tripartite talks which the DPRK Government has patiently proposed to the U.S. and south Korean authorities since last year is a realistic proposal for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. And also the south Korean side should actively respond to the proposal for interparliamentary talks to adopt a north-south non-aggression declaration in order to consolidate the peace of Korea, in view of the present situation in which the U.S. does not respond to the three-way talks proposal.

If these political talks are held successfully and achieve good result, they will guarantee successful Red Cross talks, economic talks and sports meetings.

We, attaching importance to the successful mutual visits, express over again our wish that a major advance will be achieved for Korea's reunification through expanded dialogue and exchange between north and south.

Finally, we hope that the south Korean side will take a earnest attitude to develop this successful result further. The 9th round of north-south Red Cross talks did not develop as had been excepted. Meanwhile, some trouble happened in the course of travels to each other's capitals along with Red Cross officials. It resulted from an uncomfortable political utterance by an official from the south. Such an attitude should be rectified for further development of north-south dialogues.

Hong Yon Uk, (63), from Seoul, raises his hands as if trying to grab the hands of his younger brother from north Korea, Hong Yon Gu, (58).

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up first as one of items to be discussed at the 8th round of Red Cross talks in May.

The Red Cross talks were resumed after the DPRK's delivery of relief supplies to south Korea's flood victims after an interval of 12-year deadlock.

In three rounds of working-level talks, Red Cross officials from Pyongyang and Seoul discussed ways to carry out the project and finally exchanged the text of agreements on the mutual visits on last August 22.

As a background to this, there were sincere efforts on the part of the DPRK which showed flexibility and made concessions at the talks when the southerners sticked to their proposals.

Each visiting group consisted of 50 dispersed families, 50 folk art performers, 30 pressmen, 20 support personnel and the head of the Red Cross Society who led the group.

The hometown visits were the first exchange of ordinary people between both parts of the divided country, although government officials and Red Cross representatives visited the opposite side before the exchange.

As for the artistes, the northern singers and dancers gave two performances on the afternoon of September 21-22 in Seoul, arousing repercussions among south Korean spectators.

Performances were presented also in a theatre in Pyongyang by the artistes from Seoul on the afternoon of the same days with a large number of audience.

Four days in advance, all told, by Koreans from two sectors of the divided peninsula were also the first cultural exchange which is expected to promote mutual understanding between the two sides.

This time, the number of those who crossed the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) was small if we consider the fact that there live about 10 million Koreans in north and south Korea which has been separated since 1945, but the mutual visits are supposed to accelerate inter-Korea dialogues including humanitarian exchanges, to promote national rapprochement and trust by re-convincing all the Koreans that they are the same nation sharing the same blood.

Many of the separated families now residing in the south are said to have gone over to the southern part of the peninsula to seek safety when the U.S. threatened that atomic bombs would be dropped on the north during the 1951-53 Korean War.

Others were dispersed in the midst of confusion and disorder shortly after the national liberation from the Japanese colonial rule in 1945.

Visiting Group from Pyongyang

The Red Cross art troupe and the home-visiting group of the DPRK, headed by Son Song Pil, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society, arrived in the capital city of Seoul before noon on September 20 after passing through the truce village of Panmunjom at about 9:30 a.m., welcomed by south Koreans who were waving to the northerners along the streets to the destination.

Prior to their arrival, Chairman Son issued a statement at Panmunjom, saying, "It is, indeed, a historical event worthy of a special place in the national history of Korea that our artistes . . . have cross the crused MDL, the symbol of confrontation and distrust."

Hometown visitors appreciated a documentary film at the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel where they spent 4 days, and the artistes began to prepare for their premiere in the afternoon, while Chairman Son called at the south Korean Red Cross Society and met its Vice President Li Yong Dok.

The north Korean chairman was quoted as saying there, "To realize free visits is the good way of easing the misfortunes and sufferings of the divided fellow countrymen at the earliest date in a package and the good way of contributing to the achievement of the cause of national reunification."

When asked by reporters, "Will the mutual visits of this kind continue?", Mr. Son showed his positive position on the question, saying, "I hope so. The Korean nation should make more efforts to realize free visits between north and south."

The north Korean group finished that day's schedule after attending a reception hosted by the mayor of Seoul.

In Seoul, 15 hometown visitors from Pyongyang, on the morning and afternoon of the following day, embraced their brothers and sisters separated for more than several decades at the hotel where there were 30 round tables with six chairs each.

Although the tearful reunions began at 10 a.m., half an hour behind schedule due to the southern side's refusal to let them meet at least in their rooms in a family atmosphere, there developed tearful and dramatic scenes.

"It's me, your first son, mother," a north Korean college professor, cried and wept. "Here is a scar over my eye, mother, which you tried so hard to heal" the son shouted in a tearful voice and hugging his mother said, "What a tragedy the 40 years of separation has caused."

Visiting north Koreans handed to families and relatives living in the south letters from their families, their tape-recorded voice and photographs of the families in the room filled with sobbings.

Following the two-hour session, the reunited families had lunch together at the hotel.

The emotional scenes continued the next day after the southern side complied with the northern side's request to let the dispersed families be united without being disturbed by others.

Another 15 visitors from Pyongyang saw their loved ones after a long separation.

They exchanged greetings at the underground Sunflower Hall of the hotel, identifying each other by recalling family backgrounds and the circumstances under which they were separated, and they were escorted to their hotel rooms where they reminisced in private.

Kim Se Yon, 63, a noted film actor in the north, told his 36-year-old daughter, "You must have hated me very much. I'm sorry. I haven't been able to act as your father at all."

Kim Mun Hi, his daughter, replied sobbing, "I feel I could die happily now that I've seen my father."

In another scene, Kang Sin Jo from the north, 46, cried to his mother, "Is this real, mother?" Upon seeing his son, the 71-year-old mother collapsed. Tears rolled down profusely from the mother's wrinkled face as she gasped in excitement.

Helped by a doctor, the mother regained consciousness and cried, "I thought you were dead. Despite the long lapse of time, you look the same."

Thirty members of the northern home-visiting group made dramatic reunions with their long-separated kin on September 21-22, but the rest or 20 Koreans could not have an opportunity to meet anyone they have waited to meet because they were not found out or dead, according to the south Korean side.

Meanwhile, the Pyongyang art troupe presented their songs and dances at the National Theatre in Seoul on the afternoon of September 21-22.

The dance "The Kumgang Fairies" was the curtain-raiser of its program of colorful numbers dealing with the Korean nation's traditional customs and national sentiments and depicting the happy and optimistic life enjoyed by north Koreans.

The program listed a folk song duet, men's and women's quartets, dances with tambourines, etc.

The total of more than 3,000 south Koreans enjoyed the two-day performances, among them were politicans, press and art circles and citizens.

The audience all rose to their feet and extended warm applause to the artistes from Pyongyang when they successfully concluded their performance.

After seeing a performance, a south Korean pressman said, "Men's quartet is very wonderful. So is the dance. The content is good and the rhythmical movement of the dancers is graceful and elegant. They have gripped the hearts of the spectators because they are soft and slow, appealing and fast."

A government official also said, "I admit that I had a wrong idea to this day. It was false propaganda that classic art has been done away with in the north."

"In particular, Kayagum (one of

(Continued on page 8, col. 1)

Rodong Sinmun on the Latest Red Cross Contact & Mutual Visit for Reunification

Rodong Sinmun, the organ of the CC of the Workers' Party of Korea, recently carried articles in connection with the recent mutual visit of Red Cross art troupes and home-visiting groups to Pyongyang and Seoul.

Follow Rodong Sinmun's comments:

(Subtitles are followed to those of the WPK organ . . . Ed.)

"Let Us Achieve Great Unity of the Whole Nation on Basis of Nat'l Idea"

National reunification is the greatest cherished desire and the most urgent fighting task for our nation which has been suffering from the national division for 40 years since the liberation of the country.

For the reunification of the country, the north and the south must not bring forward the communist ideas and capitalist ideas but put up one common idea, national idea, and achieve the great unity of the whole nation on its basis.

To this end, the north and the south must do away with misunderstanding and mistrust, respect and trust each other and strive to find a common denominator, pushing aside the differences.

We do not want to force our ideas and system upon south Korea.

The south Korean authorities must refrain from crying about "unification by prevailing over communism" or forcing us not to build communism.

If the south Korean authorities truly want the national unity and reunification, they must stop the anti-communist confrontation campaign against the northern half of the DPRK and put an end to the suppression of political parties, organisations and patriotic people calling for democracy and the country's unification.

If they sincerely desire to hold dialogue with us and achieve the peaceful reunification of the country, they must replace their policy of national split with a policy of unification and anti-communist policy with a policy of alliance with communism.

Only when the national idea is put up and the great unity of the nation is established on its basis is it possible for our nation to smash the "two Koreas" plots of the domestic and foreign splittists and solve the problem of national reunification by its own efforts.

To found the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo is the most realistic and reasonable way of achieving national unity and national reunification.

The entire people in the north and the south should turn out more powerfully in the great struggle to realize the historic cause of national reunification by forcing the U.S. imperialist aggressors out of south Korea and founding the DCRK, closely rallied on the principle of the great national unity.

(Sept. 21)

"Why Are They Afraid?"

The south Korean side attached a person wearing the insignia of "guide" to each of our 30 reporters and hampered their news coverage and even committed rude acts.

Saturday morning, when our reporters began covering the scenes of reunion of members of the home-visiting group with their families, the "guides" dragged and pushed them out of the room by force under the pretext of keeping the "order" and even destroyed the flashing apparatus of a camera.

That afternoon a "guide" interfered with a cameraman's taking picture of Son Song Pil, Chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, who was coming out of the theatre together with the Vice President of the south Korean Red Cross after seeing the first performance of the Pyongyang Art Troupe, by pulling his camera and destroying its flashing apparatus.

The south Korean side watched and controlled the reunion of kinsmen and a "guide" forced a south Korean woman to stop weeping.

An operative wearing the armband of "press" fled with a family picture which he snatched when a member of the home-visiting group of the north side was going to hand it to his sister residing in the south.

After issuing invitation cards to foreign correspondents, the south Korean side did not allow them to cover the performance of the Pyongyang Art Troupe Saturday afternoon.

When foreign correspondents were about to talk with members of the home-visiting group of the north side, covering their inspection that afternoon, operatives stood between them, shouting at them.

A French reporter protested in Korean: "Why are you blocking my news coverage? This is gangsterism. You are a C.I.C. man."

The behaviour of the south Korean side in prohibiting even the news coverage of reporters, to say nothing of the reunion of members of the home-visiting group with their families and relatives, is a cowardly act of those who are afraid of the disclosure of truth to the world.

(Sept. 23)

"Cold Water on Feelings of Kinship"

The Red Cross Art Troupe and home-visiting group of the south Korean side gave performances and had reunion with families and relatives while staying in Pyongyang.

But, some members of the south Korean side who came to Pyongyang as guests made no scruple of committing disagreeable acts.

Its suite members tried their hardest to pour cold water on the family atmosphere of reunion.

They interfered with the conversation between a mother in the north and her son from south Korea by obtrusively wedging themselves between them and producing a tape-recorder, when it was taking place in a happy atmosphere.

They even forced members of the home-visiting group to present "souvenirs" to their families and relatives and to utter such ridiculous words as urging them to go to south Korea and live together there before they had time to exchange greetings.

Sunday morning, a suite member of the south Korean side staying in Pyongyang Koryo Hotel gave a sealed envelope to his guide of our side as a "souvenir".

And it contained the south Korean magazine "Sonyon Chungang" carrying anti-communist pictures and articles hurling groundless slanders at the north.

Earlier, on the evening of September 20, a member of the home-visiting group of the south Korean side gave to a guide of the hotel a shirt inscribed with the word "Prevail-Over-Communism" and "Anti-Espionage", saying that it was a "souvenir" on his visit to Pyongyang. **(Sept. 23)**

"Incomprehensible Stand of South Side"

Contact between working-level delegates of the north and south Red Cross organisations was held in Pyongyang on September 20 and 21 to discuss the procedural matters on the reunion of the home-visiting group members from south Korea and their families and relatives.

The working-level delegate of our side proposed that the Red Cross organisations of the two sides provide conveniences to ensure the free reunion of members of the home-visiting group of the south side which has come to Pyongyang with their families and relatives according to their hope and demand.

But, the stand of the south side was different from this.

Under the pretext of condition for news coverage, the south side asserted that a reunion of home-visiting group members with their families and relatives be held collectively at a designated place in the hotel.

It also disliked families and relatives in the north and south taking meals together and refused to allow them to spend even a night together at the hotel.

On September 21, the south side which had restricted in every way the reunion of families and relatives dragged out a member of its home-visiting group by the hand when he was meeting his family at a place of reunion between the home-visiting group members of the south side and their families and relatives.

This rude act on the part of the south side evoked a due accusation among those on the scene.

On the evening of September 20, a member of the south side's home-visiting group who was staying at Pyongyang Koryo Hotel gave a guide of the hotel a shirt inscribed with the words "Prevail-Over-Communism", saying that it was a "souvenir" on his visit to Pyongyang.

This act showed that the home-visiting sought a sinister political purpose which had nothing to do with reunion with the family.

Similar cases took place in Seoul to which the home-visiting group of the north side has gone to meet families and relatives.

The south side rejected the proposal of the north side that the reunion with families and relatives be held in a family atmosphere and made members of the home-visiting group from Pyongyang meet them collectively in a spacious room.

And it made their "guides" stay there, thus preventing those families and relatives who met each other after a long separation from conversing with each other in a cordial atmosphere.

Such acts of the south side can hardly be understandable.

The south side's attempt to prevent reunion of families and relatives fearful of it is an expression of distrust of those who, not knowing what kindred feelings are, do not believe those whom they have taken to Pyongyang, the families and relatives whom the members of the home-visiting group of our side have called on, and the rest of compatriots.

They say there are 10 million fellow countrymen dispersed in north and south. But, they are fearful of reunion of only dozens of home-visiting group members.

Then, when can they realize their meeting and permanent reunion?

(Sept. 22)

Students and Police Clash As Crackdown Goes On: FEER

Far Eastern Economic Review in its 26 September 1985 issue carried an ariticle entitled "Children of Warriors", elaborating on ever-intensified student demonstrations, a storm brewing between the DJP and the NKDP and court struggle of the students who seized the U.S. Information Service library in last May.

Here are excerpts from the article:

Demonstrations on university campuses across Seoul flared up in the second week of September, as more than 1,000 students and police exchanged petrol bombs and volleys of tear gas in the first major wave of demonstrations since the summer holidays.

One major cause of the troubles has been the government's proposed Campus Stabilisation Law which officials have indicated they will introduce if demonstrations continue. The law, which was first proposed in August, but abandoned due to heavy criticism from a broad spectrum of society, would place arrested students in "re-orientation camps."

Observers expect this autumn to be as violent as it has been over the past few years. This year the students are returning to university following several months during which the government has displayed its intention of dealing with demonstrations and other forms of open defiance more firmly than before, with crackdowns and house arrests of teachers, artists, and labour organisers.

With the National Assembly scheduled to meet later this month, a storm is already brewing between the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) and the opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) relating to an incident at Korea University when two NKDP politicians and a group of their supporters were barred entry by police into Korea University shortly before a demonstration involving more than 1,000 students broke out on campus.

One of the two politicians, Pak Chan Jong, is also one of the lawyers involved

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Demonstrations Continuously Flare Up

Vigorous demonstrations have been continuously flaring up in Seoul and various parts of south Korea, triggered by the biggest demonstrations since the start of the new semester involving some 5,000 students from 17 universities on Sept. 11 and 12, according to the Chungang Ilbo, dated Sept. 18.

More than 200 students of University of Foreign Studies held an inaugural meeting for the Struggle Committee for Democratic Constitutional Revision in front of the main building of the university on Sept. 9, criticizing the anti-democratic nature of the present "constitution" and demanding its abolition.

Then, the inaugural meeting turned out to be an anti-"government" demonstration, calling for a revision in the "constitution from the present" indirect presidential election" to a direct election and for "guarantee of campus freedom."

That day, student demonstrations calling for "constitutional revision" were held at 8 universities and colleges in Seoul and other areas.

On September 20, over 200 students of Korea University met to declare they would develop on-campus movement for democracy, the nation and the masses and staged an anti-"government" demonstration.

They fiercely fought with over 100 tear-gas firing police, throwing petrol bombs and rocks at them when they tried to break into the campus to disperse the students.

Over 1,500 students of Seoul National University held an extraordinary student meeting to elect a new chairman of the Sammin Struggle Committee to fill the vacancy created by the arrest of the former chairman.

The students held an anti- "government" demonstration shoulder to shoulder, holding torchlights.

Over 100 students of Kukmin University in Seoul held an inaugural on-campus meeting for the "Struggle Committee for Democratic Constitutional Amendment" on Sept. 18, followed by an anti-"government" demonstration, according to the south Korean paper Choson Ilbo dated Sept. 19.

They clashed with tear-gas firing police in a scrum-like formation, chanting "Carry out democratic constitutional amendment" and so forth and hurling stones at the police.

That day, more than 100 students of Soong Jon University who rose up in an anti-"government" protest action, held an extraordinary gathering on the campus.

The student demonstration was followed by a meeting which denounced the authorities' plot to intensify campus crackdown, and chanted anti-"government" slogans such as "Withdraw the campus stabilization bill."

Similar demonstrations were also held on the Suwon campus of Sung Kyun Kwan University at about noon that day involving some 100 students.

On Sept. 17, more than 100 students of Choson University in Kwangju held a meeting and demonstration in protest against campus crackdown and demanding a "constitutional" amendment.

That day some 800 SNU students joined in the second-day campaign meeting for the election of the General Student Council and an on-campus demonstration.

(Continued from page 4)

in the defence of the 20 students facing trial for the occupation of the USIS library. He was accompanied by another NKDP politician, Cho Sun Hyong, and more than a dozen followers. The two politicians and their followers are members of the Council for the Promotion of Democracy (CPD) – jointly chaired by dissident leaders Kim Young Sam and Kim Dae Jung. They had come to the university to attend a debate, and say they were also trying to dissuade one student from committing suicide for political reasons, and discuss student demands.

When they found themselves unable to enter the university, the group held a brief, peaceful rally of their own, singing songs and chanting protests, and then dispersed. The DJP has responded harshly to the incident, and the police have said they will file charges against the two politicians involved. Three CPD members who were present have already been detained by police.

At the trial of the students in connection with the USIS seizure, attention is focused on physics student Ham Un Kyong from Seoul National University, who stands accused of plotting the sit-in and violating the National Security Law. The code was originally designed for use against alleged North Korean spies and other communists but has been widely applied in recent years against anti-government dissidents, who deny being pro-communist.

The students' parents, human-rights activists and the NKDP have been outraged by the prosecution's decision to use the law, which stipulates the maximum penalty of death, against a student dissident who voluntarily ended the siege.

"The government is trying to splash our action in the red colour [of communism], " Kim Min Sok, one of 20 defendants being tried in the case, shouted at the judge on the trial's opening day, "We cannot accept this trial so long as perpetrators of the [1980] massacre in Kwangju are not first brought to justice," another student yelled.

A question the students' lawyers seek to resolve at the trial is why the US approved use of the South Korean troops in Kwangju. "The Kwangju incident was the overriding motivation of students [in occupying the library] so this must be clarified," said, national assembly member Pak who is among the 14 lawyers defending the students.

However, a three-member court panel, headed by senior judge Lee Je Hun, has turned down a request by Pak and the other lawyers that US Ambassador Richard Walker and two of his aides should be called to testify at the trial. While this decision was based on the principle of diplomatic immunity Lee also rejected a request to subpoena South Korean army generals involved in quelling the Kwangju rebellion.

Of more than a dozen witnesses called by the defence lawyers, only three, including a student and a professor called to testify whether a book read by Ham could have turned him into a communist, were approved.

Frustrated in their attempts to shed more light on exactly what happened in Kwangju, the defence attorneys have challenged Lee's panel on grounds of fairness, thus forcing the judge to postpone the trial until a final ruling on the fairness issue is handed down by a higher court. This process could go all the way to the Supreme Court, with a final ruling expected to take weeks or even months.

A show of unusual defiance by students and parents has continued to mark the trial. While on the first day, hundreds of riot policemen sealed off the courthouse, inside, each recess called by the judge to maintain order gave way to fresh outbursts of protest songs. As their melancholy notes spread throughout the court, the words could be heard: ". . . We thirst for chayoo [freedom] . . . Chayoo we dream in our dreams . . . Do not grieve, our sons and daughters, for you're the children of warriors."

Watching these activities from his elevated podium Lee, looking grim, declared that future hearings would be open to one family member per defendant. He also warned students not to shout insults at the judge on pain of facing contempt-of-court charges. Since the warning, two students have been punished with solitary confinement, with no family visits or mail.

Whether such tough tactics will be effective in controlling commotion in the court has yet to be seen.

"Kwangju Citizens, Wake Up!"

— *Appeal of S. Korean Youth through Death* —

Celebrating August 15, the 40th anniversary of Korea's liberation, a 26-year-old youth, Hong Ki Il tried to burn himself to death in downtown Kwangju, in protest against the Chon Du Hwan military dictatorship and proposed "campus stabilization law", shouting "Democracy, Long live!"

He was taken to a hospital in serious condition. In the hospital, he repeatedly stressed the corruption and contradiction of the military junta and appealed to the south Korean people to struggle for democracy.

His action is now causing a sensation among the south Korean people.

His determination to destroy himself and his appeal were carried in a report, by the "Countermeasure Committee on Democratic Fighter Hong Ki Il's Protest through Self-destruction."

Our paper analyses the background of Mr. Hong's suicide, on basis of the report.

Appeal for Democracy through Death

On August 15 at about 12 : 40 p.m., a youth appeared in Kunnam Street, Kwangju with his body sprayed with petroleum, chanted "Kwangju citizens, Wake up!", "Let's unite!" and "Let's struggle against 'campus stabilization law'!" to the crowd on the street and distributed to them leaflets in his own handwriting, "Mt. Mudung which celebrated 40th anniversary of the liberation."

Hearing his shouts, riot police near at hand tried to arrest him. Then he drew out a knife, threatening them saying that if they came to him, he would stab himself with the knife, and struck a match and burned himself to death. Covered with flames, he run around the street, shouting "Democracy, Long live! " and fell.

He was in serious condition when he was taken to Chonnam University Hospital, and finally died on August 22.

Warrior of Kwangju Uprising

He left several deathbed statements in the hospital such as: "I can no longer bear it. There is no land where we stand if you and I don't push forward democracy" (August 15), "I do regret that I can't see freedom, democracy and national reunification which we seek." (August 18)

He was born in 1960 in Hwasun County and graduated from Kwangju Yangdong National School and left Chonnam Middle School before finishing the course and worked as a construction worker.

He participated in the Kwangju Uprising in May of 1980 and was shot through his foot during the uprising.

In the leaflet which he distributed, he said that though 5 years have passed since the uprising, the suppressive rule of the Chon junta against freedom and democracy still remains and that the people have come not to feel it as a pain. He pointed out that the people now decisively want independence. He warned that the present tendencies would lead to increase military, cultural and economic dependence on U.S. and Japan.

The determined youth on August 1 sent 620,000 won which he had saved to his parents, a new watch to his mother and another to his aunt.

On August 14, he called his brother, saying "Good luck! This may be my last call" and on the next day, he carried out his plan.

Suicide's Reflection

The news of his brave action soon spread throughout the Kwangju City. Many dissidents including parsons, youth and students visited his hospital, concerned about his condition.

On the very day of the incident, "the Countermeasure Committee on Democratic Fighter Hong Ki Il's Protest through Self-destruction", chaired by Li Ki Hun, was formed under the slogan "Let's carry on the spirit of democratic fighter Hong Ki Il."

It said, "Mr. Hong Ki Il was angered by the reality of the gloomy 40th anniversary of the liberation and struggled against dependence on foreign countries. Recent attacks on dissidents and the proposed 'campus stabilization law' made him appeal to the people through death."

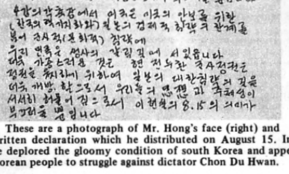
His brave death may trigger stronger struggles for democracy among the south Korean people just as Chon Tae Il's suicide with which he appealed for better working conditions in 1970, became an occasion to develop south Korean labour movements.

Chon Junta's Dismay

The south Korean authorities who feared that his death might be a detonator of anti-"government" struggles in south Korea, seized his body from the family and carried it away from the hospital and buried it without the family's knowledge.

On Aug. 22 at about 1 p.m., soon after Mr. Hong's death, the authorities arrested about 30 dissidents who were by Mr. Hong's deathbed, by mobilizing about 1,000 plainclothesmen and blocked the hospital and carried the body out of the hospital despite the family's desperate protest.

The authorities burried it in a hill near in Doam-myon, Hwasun County, his native place without allowing any of his family members or relatives to participate in the burial service. Moreover, they deployed riot police in and around the burial ground and checked passers-by.



These are a photograph of Mr. Hong's face (right) and part of his handwritten declaration which he distributed on August 15. In the declaration, he deplored the gloomy condition of south Korea and appealed to the south Korean people to struggle against dictator Chon Du Hwan.

Koguryo — Ancient Korean Dynasty (3)

Great Results of Exhibition, Lectures, etc.

The "Koguryo Cultural Exhibition," which opened on Sep. 13 in the Hankyu department store in Osaka closed on Sep. 25.

With 160 precious national assets including mural paintings, the exhibition gave Korean residents in Japan great national pride and showed the Japanese people the superiority of Koguryo culture.

Further, the academic delegation from the D.P.R.K. which attended the International symposium, gave lectures and participated in discussions, built solid foundation to promote active academic exchanges between Korea and Japan.

The cultural exhibition will open again from Nov. 15 in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan.

The "Koguryo Cultural Exhibition" which closed on Sep. 25 in Osaka drew great interest of the Japanese people, and a crowd of visitors.

The Exhibition Closed with Success

The "Koguryo Cultural Exhibition" which closed on Sep. 25, was of really epoch-making exhibition in many ways.

First of all, it was the first exhibition of this kind held by the D.P.R.K. abroad. In spite of Koguryo's great influence in Ancient Japan, there was no chance for the Japanese people to get in touch with Koguryo's excellent culture and art. So, the voices of people calling for an exhibition of Koguryo culture got louder and louder to make it finally open.

Secondly, with many activities such as the International Symposium, attended by 450 people, lecture meetings and discussions held as part of the exhibition, the Koguryo culture and art also attracted specialists' attention.

According to statistics, visitors to the exhibition totaled more than 60.000.

Especially, the first discovery in Japan of a Koguryo-type tumulus in Osaka which was reported by the Mainichi Shimbun on Sep. 21, drew more visitors to the exhibition. **(See related article below)**

Sato Kouji, Section Director of the National Nara Research Institute for Cultural Assets, who specializes in the Asuka culture appreciated the exhibition, saying, " I really am glad to see the exhibition and listen to the opinions of D.P.R.K. researchers with whom I couldn't get in touch except by reading their theses which appeared in research magazines. In this sense, the exhibition was very meaningful to us. On top of that, listening to their opinions about the 'Monument to King Kwanggeto' was a great joy to me."

Press Interview in Fukuoka

While visiting the Kyushu Historical Materials Hall in Dazaifu City, the D.P.R.K. academic delegation for the cultural exhibition gave a press interview.

In addition to the reporters of the three major Japanese papers—Asahi, Yomiuri and Mainichi— present there were reporters from Fukuichi, Nishinippon, Kyushu Nichinichi shimbuns and also from the R.B.K. (Mainichi) T.V. network.

After the greetings of Tamura Encho, Head of the hall and an honourary professor of Kyushu University, Shim Sang Guk, Head of the delegaton answered questions put by reporters.

According to him, as Koguryo culture was introduced to Japan through Kyushu, and as there are so many relics showing close relationships between Ancient Japan and Korea, the Koguryo Cultural Exhibition held in Fukuoka in the near future will be very meaningful.

Also, Head of the delegation and Prof. Chae Hui Guk talked about their impressions of the remains in the Kyushu area.

On the same day, the delegation visited the relics in the Dazaifu area, and the tumuluses of Takahara and Hinooka, guided by Nishitani Tadashi, an assistant professor at Kyushu University.

The D.P.R.K. delegation visits the remains and tumuluses around Dazaifu.

Lecture Meeting in Tokyo, Too

On Sep. 24, in spite of rainy weather, one of the halls of the Gakushi-kaikan Hall in Jinbocho, Tokyo, was filled with more than 100 scholars and researchers who attended the lecture meeting "Koguryo Culture and the Ancient Japan."

The lecture meeting was co-sponsored by Japanese and Korean associations and committees such as the Association for Social Sciences of the Korean Residents in Japan and the Archaeological Association of Japan.

The lecturer was Prof. Chu Yung Hun, Deputy Director of the Academy of Social Sciences, member of the D.P.R.K. academic delegation. He had visited Japan 10 years ago to attend the International Discussion about the Takamatsuzuka Tumulus, together with a south Korean delegation and Japanese scholars.

After he gave a lecture on the basis of the keynote lecture he gave at the International Symposium held on Sep. 14, he advanced his and general opinions about the persons with whom the Anak Tumulus No. 3 and the Tokhun-ri Tumulus are directly associated and the relationship between the Takamatsuzuka Tumulus and Koguryo tumuluses with mural paintings.

Concluding remarks were made by Prof. Tamura Koichi of the Aoyama Gakuin College, who is also a committee member of the Archaeological Association of Japan.

In the meeting the D.P.R.K. film "the Country with a Long Culture" was shown.

Lecture meetings were also held in Kyoto and Osaka on Sep. 19 and 20.

The discussion and lecture meeting held in Osaka, "About the Monument to King Kwanggeto and Koguryo Culture"

Typical Koguryo Tumulus Excavated in Osaka

The First Discovery in Japan

When the "Koguryo Cultural Exhibition," the D.P.R.K.'s first exhibition abroad of its kind, was drawing the great attention of the Japanese people, a Koguryo-type tumulus was unearthed in Osaka, Japan.

The Education Committee of Kashiwabara city, which was excavating and investigating the Chausuzuka Tumulus, confirmed and disclosed the fact that it is a Koguryo-type stone-pile tumulus.

The Chausuzuka Tumulus which is supposed to be built at the end of the 4th century has outer walls built with virtically piled-up flagstones, and the square tumulus has a terrace on each floor. The committee on Sep. 20 announced it is obviously a Koguryo-type stone-pile tumulus.

Some stone-piling tumuluses such as the Iwayama Tumulus in Takamatsu City have been found in Japan, but this is the first discovery of a typical Koguryo-type tumulus.

There is no special mention in "Nihonshoki" (Chronicles of Japan) of exchanges between Ancient Japan and Koguryo. However, the result of this excavation confirms the fact of exchanges between the two countries.

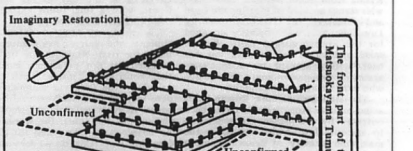
On top of that, the tumulus is located in front of the Matsuokayama Tumulus in the area which was a leading power in the ancient Kawachi area, the discovery will give much influence on the discussion of the formation process of the "Kawachi Dynasty" and the "Mounted People."

Now, there is an orchard around the Chausuzuka Tumulus. After some relics such as triangle-framed mirrors with three Gods and animals and bracelets made of stone were found last fall, the excavation and investigation of it started in July this year with the support of the Cultural Board.

The base of the square tumulus is estimated to be 22 meters in width and 18 meters in length and the top is 2 meters in height. It has a terrace which is 1.5 meters in height and 2 meters in width.

The outer wall is made of piled-up flagstones. (each of them 30 centimeters in length, 20 centimeters in width and 10 centimeters in thickness) Inside the terrace, there is a second outer wall of piled-up stones 20 centimeters in height.

The stonehouse is placed in the center of the tumulus. It's also built of piled-up flagstones. It's a dugout 6.4 meters in length, 1 meter in width and 1.7 meters in height.



The discovery of the typical Koguryo-type tumulus, as well as the Takamatsuzuka Tumulus in Nara Prefecture, will show the great influence of Koguryo culture on Ancient Japan and is interesting as an important archaeological discovery.

Sketches from the Koguryo Mural Paintings

By Kim Han Mun

1. Dignified Air of the Ancients

"Queen's Face" from the Anak Tumulus No.3

As the Koguryo culture is attracting people's attention these days, The People's Korea is going to issue some sketches and articles drawn and written by a Korean resident in Japan.

Kim Han Mun is an artist and a professor of Chosun University in Kodaira, Tokyo. He made sketches from the mural paintings of Koguryo Tumuluses while he visited the D.P.R. Korea last year. Also he added some explanation and his expression for each sketch. Follows the first of the series of nine installments: (Translations are ours . . . Editor)

* * *

Koguryo was one of the powers in Asia which ruled over the largest territory in the history of Korea and prospered for a long period from the 1st century B.C. to the 7th century B.C.

Because of ceaseless invasions from outside, the Koguryo people came to excel in military arts and horsemanship. They also loved art very much as well as science and culture. Koguryo was an advanced country which created an original culture.

Koguryo created its culture and art and reflecting the spirit of the Koguryo people.

Some relics discovered are, magnificent and graceful, and at the same time, which hit a gentle spirit, friendliness and simplicity.

Moreover, there must have been numerous human dramas during its eight-century-long dynasty.

But there is no way of knowing and telling our proud ancestors about their strong will and excellent culture. One thousand and a hundred years have passed and what's more, because of the repeated invasions, destruction and plunder, (some of them were only recent) most of their civilization disappeared.

Koguryo greatly influenced its neighbouring countries with its strength and the beauty of its arts. But we can see parts of Koguryo culture through the relics and remains which have survived until today.

Its most eloquent narrator is the mural paintings of Koguryo Tumuluses which were painted for about 400 years from the 4th century. The tumuluses with mural paintings, though they were products of the avarice and luxury of Koguryo aristocrats but at the same time, they also are the creations of the masses who made them showing their knowledge, artistic ability and art. In those paintings, we can observe various aspects of Koguryo people's life and their customs. They have survived as treasures of history and art works because they were sealed underground.

Especially, the paintings of the Kangso Big Tumulus and the Anak Tumulus are excellent and are remarkable works of art in the world.

This writer visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and had an opportunity to observe some of the Koguryo mural paintings as an artist and sketched them.

I can still remember the strange tension I had when I felt the cold air in the dim stone house and the strong shock when I saw the dazzlingly vivid colours. They roused my blood as a Korean and touched my heart as an artist.

I'd like to introduce some of them here, regardless of its dates or themes. I sketched them as faithfully as my eyes and my heart caught them.

1) "The Queen's Face"
(from the Anak Tumulus No.3)

The Anak Tumulus No. 3, located in Anak-gun, South Hwanghae Province, is the oldest and the biggest of all the tumuluses so far discovered.

It is 6 meters in height, 33 meters in width, and 30 meters in length. It has four rooms large and small, and corridors. Each wall has wonderful paintings.

The stone tumulus, built in the middle of the 4th century and excavated in the modern times, is a gorgeous tumulus. On the southern wall of the large front room, which is like a garden, there is a painting of a dignified king. Painted on its southern wall is a seated figure of a queen with folded arms and attended by maids.

I made a partial sketch of Queen's face and her upper body.

Unlike the painting of the King which was retouched many times, that of the Queen was painted in smooth lines.

Watching her husband, she seems to be gentle and content and also her pride as a queen was also expressed well.

In contrast to her full and round cheeks and large face, her eyes and lips are drawn small and the colour of her skin is painted lambent which is one of the characteristics of this painting.

Maybe this picture was of one of charming noblewomen, as in those days modesty was a virtue of women. This is the sharp contrast to her gorgeous hairdo. Her picture is as dignified as her husband's.

(To be continued)

Sports and Culture

Historical Monuments and Relics in Pyongyang

PYONGYANG August 8 (KCNA) – Pyongyang with a long history has many historical remains and relics showing the talent and wisdom of our ancestors.

They lived in and around Pyongyang from 600,000-400,000 years ago, engaging themselves in production activity and developing culture.

Pyongyang has a history of its development as a city spanning more than 1,500 years. It became the capital of Koguryo (first century B.C.-668 A.D.) from the fifth century A.D. when it was growing into a great feudal state, and was the second capital in the era of Koryo Dynasty (918-1392).

A good many relics testifying to the long history and culture of Pyongyang have been discovered.

More than 120 historic remains and monuments such as remains in the era of the primitive society and walls, buildings (wall gates, pavilions, shrines, etc.), tombs, structures, towers, signal-fire posts and tombstones built in the later period have been uncovered. More than 20 of them are walls and about 20 are buildings.

The oldest ones are the Komunmoru remains, a grotto in Sangwon County belonging to the early paleolithic era, and relics at Taehyon-dong, Ryokpo district, belonging to the mid-paleolithic era. Unearthed there were fossil bones of men and various tools of labor made of stones and bones.

Tools, farm implements, fishing tackle, earthenwares and many other relics were found at Kumtan-ri remains in Sadong district and other remains belonging to the neolithic era.

Pyongyang abounds especially in the remains of the Koguryo Period. Typical of them are the Anhak Palace, the wall on Mt. Taesong and the Pyongyang Wall.

The Anhak Palace in Anhak-dong, Taesong district, was built when Koguryo moved her capital to Pyongyang from Kuknaesong (now Jian in Jilin Province, China), in 427. The palace was a gigantic one with the central building and four other groups of buildings. Now there remains only its site.

The wall on Mt. Taesong was built for the defence of the capital when the Anhak Palace was being constructed. The wall encompassing an area of about 2.7 square kilometres extends 7 kilometres. It is one of the biggest among over 800 mountain walls in Korea.

The Pyongyang wall 23 kilometres long, encompassing an area of 11.8 square kilometres, was a new wall of the capital built in the central district of Pyongyang by Koguryo in the 522-586 period.

Parts of the wall and its ruins remain in the city.

In Pyongyang there are many wall gates and pavilions which were built in different parts at the time of Koguryo Dynasty during the construction of the city wall. They were repaired, rehabilitated and reconstructed in the period of the Koguryo and Li Dynasties after the fall of Koguryo.

Remaining today of the Pyongyang Wall are the Taedong Gate, Chilsong Gate, Potong Gate, Chongum Gate and Hyonmu Gate.

These buildings were used as military commanding posts in war times and recreation centers in peace times.

All the architectures including walls, wall gates and pavilions fully show the high architectural skill of our ancestors.

These historical monuments are associated with the feats of the Pyongyang people in their heroic fight against foreign aggressors in the past.

There are many tombs and ruins of temples in Pyongyang. Typical are a group of tombs around the tomb of King Tongmyong, Koguryo's first king, and ruins of temples in Mujin-ri, Ryokpo district, hundreds of graves on the southwest and southeast foot of Mt. Taesong and ruins of temples on Moran Hill and Mt. Taesong.

Besides, Pyongyang boasts of many other relics including the Pyongyang Bell by the Taedong Gate (3.1 metres in height, 1.6 metres in diametre at its mouth and 13 tons 513 kilogrammes in weight).

The valuable cultural relics and monuments in Pyongyang created by the Korean people were trampled underfoot and destroyed by foreign aggressors, the Japanese and U.S. imperialists in particular.

But, they are well preserved in Pyongyang today under the wise guidance of President Kim Il Sung and the correct policy of the Workers' Party of Korea for preserving the national cultural legacies. And more relics and remains are extensively surveyed and unearthed.

Quantities of historic relics and materials are displayed at the Central History Museum and the Folklore Museum.

22nd National Traditional Sports Games Held

PYONGYANG September 18 (KCNA) – The 22nd National Traditional Sports Games were held in Sariwon from September 9 to 14.

The games included national wrestling, swinging and seesawing.

Top Honors went to Pyongyang Athletes in national wrestling and to Ryanggang provincial contestants in swinging. North Hwanghae, South Hamgyong and Ryanggang provincial women showed good skill in seesawing.

The games proved that traditional sports are brisk among the working people and sports technique is developing day by day among the working people.

World Wrestling Title Holder

PYONGYANG September 6 (KCNA) – Kim Chol Hwan, People's Sportsman of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is a world wrestling title holder.

He captured the 48 kilogram category title at the world free-style wrestling championships held in Moscow in September 1983.

The 25-year-old Kim is nimble and good in coupling movements and decision and strong-willed.

He won the top honor in the 38 kilogram category at the Asian Juvenile Wrestling Championships held in Iraq in October 1977, attracting the attention of specialists and sports-lovers as a promising wrestler.

He was a senior middle school student at the time.

Later he became a wrestler of the Pyongyang Municipal Sports Team, he worked out a scientific training plan and firmly prepared himself both physically and tactically and technically.

He finished third at the International Wrestling Tournament held in Mongolia in February 1981 and second at the 9th Asian Games in 1982.

In those days he set himself a goal of emerging a world title holder.

He intensified training, drawing a lesson from each competition.

At last, he attained his goal in 1983.

In 8 years of his career as a strong man he participated in 15 international competitions to carry away 6 trophy cups, 2 gold girdles, 8 gold medals, 3 silver medals and 2 bronze medals.

He was awarded the title of People's Sportsman of the republic in October 1983.

Kim Chol Hwan is now tirelessly cultivating new technical movements to win the title again at the world championships slated in October this year.

(Continued from page 3)

national instruments) solo was very wonderful," said a professor of an art academy, "I wanted to climb to the stage and take the hands of the performer to praise her. But I could not do so because I was afraid of others' eyes. So I feel pain in my heart."

The north Korean group, after ending their 4-day-and-3-night stay, left Seoul at around 10:20 a.m. on September 23, in a tearful and emotion-charged atmosphere.

In front of the hotel, crying separated families gathered around the buses bound for Pyongyang and clung to their windows, shouting "Goodbye, my son!" and "Live long until we meet again."

An old south Korean sobbed violently and shouted "Goodbye, my son! When you come next time, I may not be alive."

Someone was shouting, "When shall we meet again?", and others only held out their hands to the windows without any words.

The northern group crossed Panmunjom again around noon, where north Korean Red Cross Chairman Son Song Pil said, "Through what we have seen and heard here during our stay in Seoul, we could notice not a few differences in several fields between north and south. Not a few members of the home-visiting group who had longed to meet their kith and kin, separated from them for 40 years, are returning without meeting them. We should broaden at any cost the road of travel between Pyongyang and Seoul opened this time to be a road of reunions for all the separated families and relatives visiting each other, a road of national unity and peaceful reunification."

Thousands of citizens and artistes in Pyongyang, families of the members of the visiting group enthusiastically welcomed the north Korean visiting group returning after giving new hopes to the fellow countrymen.

Visiting Group from Seoul

The Red Cross art troupe and home-visiting group led by Kim Sam Hyop, President of the South Korean Red Cross, headed for Pyongyang after entering the north Korean area of Panmunjom across the MDL at 9:30 a.m. on September 20 and they finally arrived at the Koryo Hotel at 1:30 a.m. where they stayed.

That day, the southerners saw a documentary film titled "Pyongyang Today" at the hotel and attended a banquet arranged by the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society in the evening.

Red Cross President Kim Sam Hyop stressed the importance of mutual exchange of art troupes and hometown visitors, when he paid a courtesy call at the North Korean Red Cross.

On September 21 and 22, 35 members of the home-visiting group had reunions as tearful and emotional as those in Seoul with their fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters whom they had longed to see for dozens of years in separate rooms as suggested by the north side in order to let them have reunions in more private atmosphere.

They talked with each other hand in hand in a tearful voice, and inquiring after their beloved ones whom they wanted to see and meet.

An aged woman, repeating, "Brother! Brother!", put her face against his chest.

When asked about his flesh and blood, an old man, with his fist clenched, said, "They were killed by an American air-raid."

Moving scenes took place in all rooms where there were reunions.

Li Song Suk, 55, who met her brother Li Song Ho, 61, for the first time in 35 years, said, "I'm glad. If this reunion were a lasting one, I would be more happy, but I'm also sad because this reunion is only for a short time."

By the end of their two-day stay, 35 of the 50 hometown visitors from Seoul were reunited with their 41 families and relatives residing in the north.

Meanwhile, the south Korean artistes gave two performances at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre on the afternoon of September 21 and 22.

Their program was comprised of folk songs, songs and dances such as "Masked Dance" and "Fan Dance".

"The program of the Seoul art troupe contained numbers intended to be national," said Kim Duk Chong, Chairman of the Critique Subcommittee of the Central Committee of the Korean Musicians Union, after seeing their songs and dances, "but represented a full revival of what is disagreeable to the present-day aesthetic tastes of the Korean nation and pieces directly imported from the West, which totally lacked national flavor."

Pak Yong Sil, Vice Chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Dancers Union, said, "The performance as a whole is marked by pathos and sorrow. We may say this as offspring of social irrationality. But we were disappointed at what they call national art, a jumble of old and backward things of the past."

All the members of the south Korean visiting team left Pyongyang at around 8:20 a.m. on September 23 aboard a train and crossed the truce village of Panmunjom again around noon after they were entertained at a reception arranged by the Pyongyang Municipal Administration and the Economic Guidance Committee.

Wet Blanket over Historical Event

In spite of a series of lachrymal and impressive reunions, the southern side's bad attitude was disclosed in the course of carrying out the historical project.

Rodong Sinmun on September 23, referring to what happened in Pyongyang, said, "On Sunday morning, a suite-member of the south Korean side staying at the Pyongyang Koryo Hotel gave a sealed envelope to his guide of our side as 'souvenir.' And it contained the south Korean magazine 'Sonyon Chungang" carrying anti-communist pictures and articles hurling groundless slanders at the north. Earlier, on the evening of September 20, a member of the home-visiting group of the south Korean side gave to a guide of the hotel a shirt inscribed with the words 'Prevail-Over-Communism' and 'Anti-Espionage', saying that it was a 'souvenir' on his visit to Pyongyang."

The paper also said in another story on south Korean's disagreeable acts in Seoul, "An operative wearing the 'press' armband fled with a family picture which he had snatched when a member of the home-visiting group of the north side was going to hand it to his sister residing in the south," and it noted, "Saturday morning, when our reporters began covering the scenes of reunions... the 'guides' dragged and pushed them out of the room by force under the pretext of keeping 'order' and then destroyed flashing apparatus of a camera."

When one of south Koreans stood, shouting violently, between hometown visitors from Pyongyang and foreign correspondents who were about to talk with them, a French reporter protested "Why are you blocking my news coverage? This is gangsterism. You are a C.I.C. man." said Rodong Sinmun dated September 23.

Before a premiere by the north Korean artistes was put on stage in Seoul on September 21, copies of a pamphlet were widely distributed in advance to spectators, which warned, "Please give performers just polite hand clapping at the beginning and the end.", reported Japanese newspaper Tokyo Shimbun on September 22.

North Korean Red Cross Chairman Son Song Pil issued a statement before leaving Seoul, saying, "The southern side was not earnest enough to arrange meetings between some members of the home-visiting group of our side and their relatives though they live in Seoul. The south side said that they tried until the last evening to find the relatives of some members of the home-visiting group, but in vain. But, to tell the truth, their relatives were in the Sheraton Hotel. All these acts are gross violations of the principle of agreement between the two sides that call for providing the members of the home-visiting groups with every convenience in meeting their families and relatives and contravene the original purpose of exchange of home-visiting groups."

(Continued from page 1)

ing against the loss of national honor."

Feud within Ruling Circles

Pointing out a power struggle between DJP and Blue House advisors for control of policy, the report points out that there exists friction within the government ranks.

After the government began to take tough policy toward students and laborers, it removed more moderate members from key positions. These include the Justice Minister, the President of Seoul National University, the General Secretary and Floor Leader of the DJP.

It is said that there are people within the government ranks who are opposed to the tough line.

The report says as follows:

"Since the February election, Mr. Chun has kept a relatively low profile, and the DJP and Roh Tae-woo have made most of the running. It now appears that Blue House advisers are taking the lead in formulating policy, along with certain government ministers and pressure from influential military groups. Where this leaves Roh is unclear. Recent pronouncements suggest he fully embraces the 'get tough' policy, though there were hints in July of a gap between Roh and the Blue House."

Serious Export Slowdown

The south Korean economy is in serious trouble. The report warns against a continuing downward trend. "We are concerned that the next phase in the cycle of the Korean economy will continue a downward trend, with very little that the government can do to help the short term," it says.

Various economic magazines also write about the economic crisis south Korea faces.

Far Eastern Economic Review, a conservative magazine based in Hong Kong, in its September 26 cover story, wrote that for the first time since the term NIC (Newly Industrializing Country) was coined, all four in the region — south Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore — are showing export performances this year which are lagging significantly behind the rate of growth of world trade.

Exports are a matter of survival for these countries as their success has been based on their export-oriented strategies.

"This is serious . . . The export setback has come before the introduction of the draconian new protectionist measures threatened in their principal market; and before the U.S. trade deficit has begun to show a hint of the shrinkage that must come sooner or later, one way or another," the story said. This implies that south Korea's export could drop further in the future.

Government officials and businessmen in Seoul are talking of slower growth rates for several years to come, though the report still does not admit that a crisis exists.

The collapse of south Korea's sixth-largest "chaebol", the Kukje group, and financial scandals involving Chon Du Hwan's family, have cast long shadows over the economy, and contributed to the belief among many that internal structural problems, as well as external factors are responsible for the slowdown in exports.

A number of critics in Seoul and abroad claim that the recent export slowdown and the less-than-sparkling prospects are symptoms of serious structural problems within the economy.

Of the four Asian NICs, south Korea is the highest stakes gambler, stresses the review story. "For the past 15 years, south Korea financed its growth by a dramatic build-up in foreign debt, to the point where it is now the world's fourth-largest debtor nation. It is this U.S.$43 billion of net of external borrowing, of which some 35% is short term, which limits south Korea's freedom of manoeuvre.

The survey report says that rising interest rates on loans on south Korea seem likely as foreign banks begin to get nervous about the size of Korea's debt.

(Continued from page 1)

attended the session, which opened at 10 a.m. in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom.

The proposal for interparliamentary talks was made in a letter to the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea adopted at the April 9-11 Fourth Session of the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly.

North Korean parliamentarians proposed to discuss the problem of drafting a joint declaration of non-aggression as a practical measure to promote national rapprochement and trust between north and south and relax tension.

As the first round of preliminary contact on July 23, Pyongyang proposed to include its own proposals and those of the south Korean side in the agenda of full-dress north-south parliamentary talks.

At the September 25 contact, Seoul still insisted on putting on the agenda of the talks only the question of formation of consultative body for the institution of a unified constitution and "the question of laying a foundation for unification", persistently opposing the proposal for the inclusion of the question of publishing a joint declaration of non-aggression in the agenda, according to the head of the DPRK delegation.

It is Seoul that always talks about the military threat from north Korea. If they really think so, why don't they accept Pyongyang's offer? If they accept a joint declaration of non-aggression, they can not come up with the alleged threat from north Korea any longer and suppress the people and to justify military buildup. This is the main reason why they refuse to talk about that problem.

Explaining the motive of the north side in proposing to open the north-south parliamentary talks and issue a joint declaration of non-aggression, Mr. Chon said:

"The non-aggression question proposed by us fully complies with the universal authority and functions of the parliament and the publication of a joint declaration of non-aggression at the inter-parliamentary talks has nothing contradictory to the functions of the parliament, he noted, and continued:

And it is the point of view that once a joint declaration of non-aggression is announced at the inter-parliamentary talks, the question of adopting a declaration of non-aggression by the administrative authorities can be easily and reliably solved.

Labour Unrest Serious Problem

As to the labour unrest, the report says:

"If the students have been doubly active this year, the labor movement has been more active. In the first 24 days of May alone, 90 labor disputes were reported to the Ministry of Labor, compared with 276 last year. In April and in June there were major strikes in two Daewoo plants, Daewoo Motors and Daewoo Apparel. Strikes in the plants of the really big conglomerates are exceptionally rare, and to have two in the same group suggests serious problems in labor-management relations.

"We see rising labor unrest as a serious problem of the coming months."

Group of Military Hardliners Emerge

The report also says that the antipathy of feeling against Mrs. Chon is intense among the general public because of a series of scandals involving Li Sun Ja, Chon's wife.

"We rate this (the disrespect that their widespread circulation brings to the president's name especially important in terms of control of the army. Rumour in embassy circles suggests the emergence of a group of military hardliners who wish to see a speedy cleaning up of the whole system," says the report.

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